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practitioner a really good guide to the practice under the later acts and judgments; we trust this treatise may "lead to some harmony in the decisions."

TOPICS OF JURISPRUDENCE CONNECTED WITH CONDITIONS OF FREEDOM AND BONDAGE.

By JOHN C. HURD, Counsellor at Law. New York: D. Van Nostrand, 192 Broadway. 1856. pp. 113.

"It is not probable," says the author of this book, "that readers will be found for these pages, unless among two classes of persons: one being those who by constitution of mind, and previous studies, are inclined to that branch of speculation which D'Aguesseau calls 'the metaphysics of jurisprudence,' and recommends as a preliminary study to the practical lawyer; and the other, those who wish to examine the legal questions, arising out of the existence of domestic slavery in some of the States of the American Union, which may affect the rights and obligations of the inhabitants of the other States." And the author is perfectly right; but to those who will pursue "the metaphysics of law," there is a great deal of *marrow* in the two chapters which is all that Mr. Hurd has yet given us. The views here taken are simply and purely *legal* ones, wholly technical and scientific, and are not embarrassed in any way by ethical or political considerations. The chapters are learned, containing the pith and substance of all preceding recognized laborers in the same field, with very copious references to their works, both ancient and modern. These two chapters are intended to state general principles, and deduce rules and to be simply and purely an abstract discussion. As such they are abundantly successful, and we trust that Mr. Hurd will finish his labors in the same spirit and with the like ability as he has now displayed in these preliminary dissertations. We would suggest, that in a book dealing so much in principles, and constructed somewhat in its mechanical details, on the continental plan of subdivisions into sections, &c., that a running head, or a side note at the most important points of inquiry and the more essential divisions, would greatly aid both the eye and the mind of the reader. A compact printed page is repulsive, even to the closest and hardest student; and in a review of a book, or a search for a particular part, such mechanical aids are greatly to be desired.